

**REMARKS**

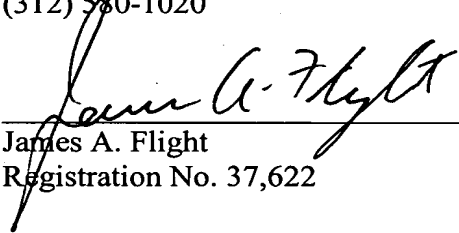
By way of this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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**October 27, 2003**